the security of tourists. Some other State Governments are considering introduction of such legislation.

Effect of Terrorist Attacks on Tourism

1641. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourism worldwide has been greatly affected by the attacks on the World Trade Centre, USA;

(b) if so, to what extent India being close to Afghanistan has been affected;

(c) whether it is also a fact that tourist visit to India has reduced from September, 2001 onwards;

(d) if so, to what extent;

(e) whether to encourage the tourists Government have decided to scrap entry fee hike at heritage sites; and

(f) if so, the other steps being taken to improve the tourist traffic of India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There has been a decline of about 20 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals during September and October, 2001 as compared to the same period of the year 2000.

(e) The Government has reduced the entry fee for the foreign tourists in respect of ticketed World Heritage Sites.

(f) Various steps taken by the Government to improve the tourist traffic of India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas offices, reorientation in marketing efforts by focussing on markets in South East Asia etc. Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination.

Development of Lakshadweep as Tourist Destination

1642. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Territory of Lakshadweep known as the Coral Paradise has 36 islands, out of which 10 are inhabitated;